

UNIC Kathmandu Participates in Media Training in Bangkok



UNIC Kathmandu National Information Officer Ram Babu Shah (2nd from left, back row) along with other National Information Officers of Asian Countries and the trainers of the CDC International Executive Media and Television Workshop held in Bangkok for 26 to 29 January 2009.

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30 January: UNIC Kathmandu participated in an intensive three and half day International Executive Media and Television Workshop (IEMTW) in Bangkok from 26 to 29 January 2009. The workshop was developed in cooperation with the United Nations System Staff College. It has established a successful track record in training UN and other international agency personnel and private sector representatives in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and the United States. The Centre for Development Communication's (CDC) methodology has been used to train diplomats, new UN Representatives, nongovernmental leaders, and private sector representatives.

The International Executive Media and Television Workshop (IEMTW) was developed and conducted by CDC to train UNIC representatives in the following areas:

1. Guidelines to better prepare for a media encounter (interviews, press briefings, press conferences, etc).
2. Advice on using the media strategically to build credibility and visibility for UNICs, issue or argument.
3. New trends in the media, and how UNICs can take advantage of them.
4. Improving UNIC's management to make it more media friendly and effective.
5. Individual coaching to improve NIOs ability to deliver UNIC's message effectively.

Besides, UNICs' NIOs also attended a half day long workshop on ethics organized by UNIS Bangkok.



UN News

Centre for Constitutional Dialogue opens



Rt. Hon'ble Subash Chandra Nembang, Chairperson of the Constituent Assembly speaking during the inauguration of the Centre for Constitutional Dialogue.

Photo: UNDP

19 January: The Centre for Constitutional Dialogue (CCD) was inaugurated by Rt. Hon'ble Subash Chandra Nembang, Chairperson of the Constituent Assembly (CA) on 19 January.

The CCD established with the assistance of the UNDP/Support to Participatory Constitution Building Project (SPCBN) and a consortium of donors (Denmark, Norway, DFID, Switzerland, USAID/OTI) in close collaboration with the CA Secretariat and the civil society, will provide support to the Constitution building process in Nepal.

The CCD will serve as a resource centre and a neutral space for dialogue between members of the Constituent Assembly, and help

promote the widest possible public participation in the Constitution drafting process.

Inaugurating the Centre, Mr. Nembang said, "the CCD will provide necessary advisory, communication, outreach and technical services for the Constituent Assembly Members, civil society and the general public who are interested to learn about and participate in the Constitution making process."

The Centre is governed by a national advisory board while it is open to all the Nepalese people interested in the Constitution making process. It houses a library and training facilities and also provides a venue for public lectures, seminars, orientations and workshops on matters relating to the Constitution.

The Centre has also developed resource materials related to Constitution building in seven languages: Maithali, Bhojपुरi, Tharu, Magar, Newar, Tamang and Nepali. These materials are available in audio formats for those who cannot or do not want to read.

There are in house experts as well as a roster of experts on subjects related to Constitution building if the CA members desire for professional expert advice. Half a dozen of telephone booths have been made available for the CA members to connect themselves to their constituencies. The Centre is open for 12 hours a day, from 8am-8 pm.

UNFPA and partners fight gender based violence

26 January: Every year the UN observes November 25th as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women this is followed by 16 Days of Activism to remind that gender based violence is never acceptable, never excusable, and never tolerable. Last year UNFPA has supported several national NGOs (among them: National Health Foundation, Saathi, Women for Human Rights, Sancharika Samuha, Legal Aid and Consultancy Centre and Maiti Nepal) to carry out a range of activities to fight violence against women in Nepal. From bicycle rallies against human trafficking in Rautahat to household visits by peer group volunteers in Kailali; skills development for young widows in Siraha, mobilizing a journalists' network in Surkhet, and training of mediators in Jhapa – the message is one: 'Zero tolerance' for gender based violence in all forms.

UNFPA and its partners succeeded in engaging women and men, young and old, in a multi-faceted fight against gender based violence. Rich in lessons learned and new partnerships, UNFPA is set to continue its support to the fight gender based violence to fulfill its mission: 'To ensure that every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect'.



Yes We Can – single women (widows) in training in Lahan, Siraha. Photo: UNFPA



WFP and UNICEF join forces to encourage girls to go to school



26 January: WFP and UNICEF are collaborating to increase girls' attendance in primary schools across five different districts in the Terai region where gender disparity rates are some of the highest in Nepal. Activities will be implemented in more than 100 schools in Sarlahi, Rautahat, Mahottari, Dhanusha, and Parsa benefiting nearly 10,000 girls.

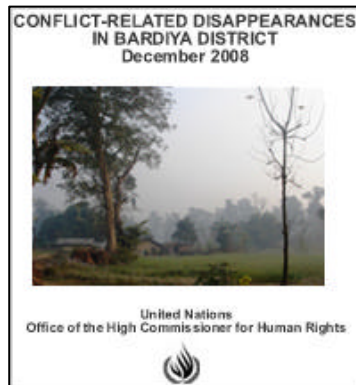
WFP is providing two litres of cooking oil each month to girls with high attendance rates. UNICEF is supplying a resource package which includes teacher training and education materials to create a child-friendly learning environment in each school. Cooking oil distributed to girls helps them to feed their families, and provides a major incentive for them to attend school regularly.

WFP and UNICEF are jointly implementing this programme as a part of the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative in close collaboration with the Government of Nepal's Department of Education.

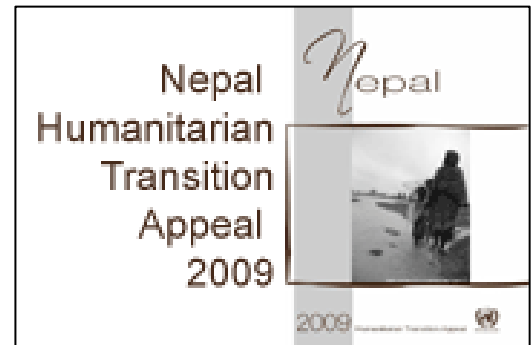
For more information on this programme please contact; WFP office in Patan Dokha, 554-2607 or the UNICEF office in the UN Building, Patan.

School girls in one of the Terai district taking their ration of cooking oil provided by WFP back home after school. Photo: WFP

New release



OHCHR: Conflict-Related Disappearances in Bardiya District December 2008.



OCHA: Nepal Humanitarian Transition Appeal 2009.

Download: <http://www.un.org.np/reports/OCHA/2009/2009-01-22-appeal-2009.pdf>

UN Events for February

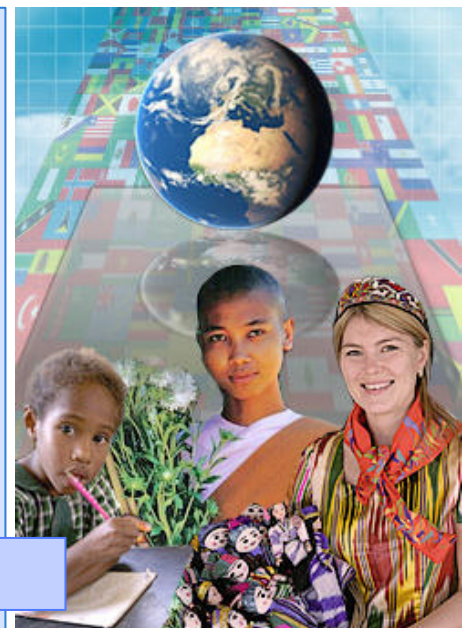
International Mother Language Day

<http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/language>

International Mother Language Day was proclaimed by UNESCO's General Conference in November 1999. The International Day has been observed every year since February 2000 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.

Languages are the most powerful instruments of preserving and developing our tangible and intangible heritage. All moves to promote the dissemination of mother tongues will serve not only to encourage linguistic diversity and multilingual education but also to develop fuller awareness of linguistic and cultural traditions throughout the world and to inspire solidarity based on understanding, tolerance and dialogue.

File Photo: UN





Participant's of SLTS Training developing Social Map: UNHABITAT

26 January: United Nation's (UN) announcement to celebrate International Year of Sanitation (IYS) – 2008 was itself a milestone to accelerate creeping movement of sanitation sector. The year was celebrated worldwide by the global communities and Nepal also showed its solidarity with this global initiative by formulating Nepal Country Plan for IYS – 2008.

Department of Water Supply and Sewerage (DWSS), under the Ministry of Physical Planning and Works (MPPW) formed the Steering Committee for National Sanitation Action (SCNSA) and established IYS-2008 Nepal Desk for the implementation of activities envisioned by IYS 2008. UN-HABITAT Water for Asian Cities (WAC) Programme Nepal also showed its team spirit and supported DWSS in this process.

A Master Plan on Hygiene and Sanitation, and National Urban Water and Sanitation Policy are being formulated to fulfill the lacking of a comprehensive vision document on hygiene and sanitation, and to address the emerging crisis of urban sanitation.

Nepal along with other participating countries also made its commitments to recognize access to water supply and sanitation as the basic right at the Third South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN). Similarly, political leaders and policy makers of Nepal expressed their willingness to promote sanitation sector by making their commitment in one voice at a Mega Event held in Kathmandu. It has assured to prioritize sanitation as one of the major issues of national importance in the new constitution of Nepal. Its because of growing concern and commitments of government, policy makers and political leaders, Government of Nepal has now begun to allocate a separate budget for sanitation promotion recognizing the social, economic and health implications of sanitation.

IYS Nepal Desk has organized several trainings on different sanitation issues and activities including School Led Total Sanitation (SLTS) and Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) were also organized at national, district and community level to



Rally for Bagmati Peace festival-2008. Photo: UNHABITAT

make the IYS – 2008 momentous. It has esteemed stakeholders to develop and implement own local level Plan of Action on sanitation promotion. Currently, SLTS has been implemented in 46 schools of the Chitwan District and 9 schools have already declared its catchments totally open defecation free zones. By learning the lesson from these activities, stakeholders of Tanahau and Pyuthan district are also developing the local level master plans for their districts to achieve cent percent sanitation coverage by 2012 and 2013 respectively.

Different events such as World Water Day, Global Hand Washing Day, National Sanitation Week, Nepal WASH Campaign and Regional Workshop on Ecological Sanitation organized in IYS 2008 have also made the sanitation consequential. People were also informed, educated and sensitized about sanitation and IYS 2008 through website, radio programs, E-newsletter and various publications.

The IYS-2008 has already been completed, but it has opened several doorways in the line of National Goal (NG) and Millennium Development Goal (MDG) to create ample space for sanitation sector. The government's initiation for the formulation of policies on sanitation, allocating separate budget, stakeholders' empowerment, public sensitization and practices for Total Sanitation (TS) is praiseworthy achievements of IYS – 2008, and conjugative role of DWSS and UN-HABITAT, which has increased hope of progress in sanitation in upcoming years.



Participants viewing the Bagmati map. Photo: UN HABITAT



UN Resource Materials

UN Nepal

ADB

<http://www.adb.org>

FAO

<http://www.fao.org>

ILO

<http://www.ilo.org>

IMF

<http://www.imf.org>

OHCHR

<http://nepal.ohchr.org>

OCHA

<http://www.un.org.np>

UNAIDS

<http://www.unaids.org>

UNCDF

<http://www.uncdf.org/nepal>

UNDP

<http://www.undp.org.np>

UNESCO

<http://www.unesco.org/kathmandu>

UNFPA

<http://www.unfpanepal.org>

UN-HABITAT

<http://www.unhabitat.org>

UNHCR

<http://www.unhcr.org>

UNIC

<http://unic.un.org/kathmandu>

UNICEF

<http://www.unicef.org>

UNIFEM

<http://www.unifem.org>

UNMIN

<http://www.unmin.org.np>

UNODC

<http://www.unodc.org>

UNV

<http://www.unv.org.np>

WB

<http://www.worldbank.org>

WFP

UNIC Kathmandu in Brief

UNIC Kathmandu is located in the UN House where most of the UN agencies in Nepal are also located. UNIC has a same entrance for visitors to facilitate their access into the Centre - be it to consult the reference library; to attend press conferences or for seeking information on UN related issues.

UNIC undertakes extensive press activities, such as organizing press conferences for visiting UN officials, and for other UN agencies located in Nepal. It helps to prepare joint statements for the UN Country Team on various important issues and disseminates statements of the UN Secretary-General and other press releases/news/articles/reports coming from UN



United Nations
Nations Unies

UN

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Headquarters. It is fully accessible to media persons and visitors during office hours.

<http://unic.un.org/kathmandu>

In its constant endeavor to upgrade its service delivery with new and innovative approach through recent Information Technology, UNIC Kathmandu has implemented the electronics library system with internet facility to visitors as well as eCatalogue for fast and efficient tracking of available contents in reference library. This catalogue is available online for home users as well as for other individuals.

URL:http://kathmandu.unic.un.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=80&Itemid=73